

Governor Jim Doyle
Maj. Gen. Albert Wilkening
The Adjutant General
Ed Gleason, Administrator
Vol. 12, Issue No. 6 Nov./Dec. 2003



WEM Digest

Issues and Events for Wisconsin's Emergency Management

County directors gather to discuss programs

County emergency management directors from across Wisconsin attended a meeting in Madison conducted by Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) to share information about program changes and to gather input.

Much of the discussion focused on terrorism preparedness programs. Presentations were made on the new Weapons of Mass Destruction Exercise Grant Program, new terrorism preparedness training courses and the use of Volk Field as a training facility, and the use of Incident Command System at both the federal, state and local levels.

In addition, Al Wohlferd and Rick Risler of WEM provided an update

on the status of interoperable communications in Wisconsin and offered some suggestions on communications equipment purchases.

Staff with the Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) also provided information and answered questions on the federal terrorism equipment grants. OJA announced Wisconsin would be receiving additional federal funds for Homeland Security.

Over 50 emergency management directors attended the November 5 training. This was the third annual county directors meeting conducted by WEM. It is a great opportunity for county directors to network and

provide feedback on emergency management and other related programs.



Wisconsin Emergency Management Administrator Ed Gleason welcomes the county emergency management directors to the November meeting.

Photo by Persis Shafer

WEM's Bureau Director Christine Bacon retires

After serving more than 22 years in public service, Wisconsin Emergency Management's Planning and Preparedness Bureau Director Christine Bacon has retired.

Christine began her career in emergency management in 1981 as the deputy director and later director of emergency government for Fond du Lac County.

She joined Wisconsin Emergency Management in 1986 as a regional director and has served as Bureau Director from 1990-2003.

Christine was instrumental in the development of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) Program in Wisconsin and worked closely with the State Emergency Response Board (SERB).

In recent years, Christine oversaw the terrorism grant program and developed the statewide domestic preparedness strategic plan in the fall of 2001.

Christine is leaving Wisconsin and moving to New Hampshire. Best Wishes!



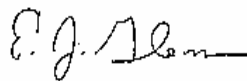
A retirement party for Christine Bacon was held December 2 in Madison. From the left are WEM Deputy Administrator Al Shanks, Christine Bacon, WEM Administrator Ed Gleason, and former WEM Administrators Lee Connors and Steve Sell.

Time to reflect and look ahead

We end another year and, as I have said in previous years, this is a good time for reflection on what we have done and what we must still do. The following are some of my year-end reflections in no particular order:

- The workload in emergency management is never ending and we are asking more from you every year, however, these challenges brings opportunities and despite the relentless pressure, this is a great time to be involved in this profession.
- The state is better prepared than we were several years ago. Your planning efforts, equipment purchases, training and exercising is certainly raising the bar. Having said this, we must sustain the effort, avoid complacency and continue to work hard to raise the bar even higher. We are not where we need to be yet.
- An Incident Management System makes sense. In the year ahead, we need to work hard to get more staff trained, exercise this training and use it during emergencies and disasters on a regular basis.
- First responders are special people. Take the time to regularly thank them during the upcoming year.
- Communications interoperability is a tremendous challenge. It is a problem that will not be solved overnight, partly because there is a lack of a clear definition of the problem. In a room full of people, it means different things to different people. In 2004, we must press on to resolve this challenge.
- We need intra-state mutual aid legislation that will create the handshakes and protocols for all levels of the response community. My hope is that this legislation comes to fruition in the year ahead.
- Relationships and partnerships are the grease for a successful response. Time spent on meeting with others before an event will pay dividends when disaster strikes. You can never have too many friends.
- Public health and emergency management must remain joined at the hip in our joint preparedness efforts.
- We must not forget that agriculture is a key element of our state's economy and we must continue to build on the efforts underway to protect this vital industry and our food supply.
- Emergency management is a tried and true system; the cornerstone of Homeland Security.

On behalf of Governor Doyle, Major General Al Wilkening, and our staff at Wisconsin Emergency Management, I wish you all a joyous holiday season. Thank you for all that you do to make Wisconsin such a great place to live, work and play.



Ed Gleason
Administrator



WEM Administrator Ed Gleason presents Genene Hibbler of Milwaukee County Emergency Management her Emergency Management Level 4 Training Certification Pin. Photo by Patrick O'Connor

Recognition for WEM Website and Digest

I would like to congratulate Lori Getter and all of you who assist in the publication of the WEM Digest. This includes those who provide the stories and contribute the ideas. We recently learned that the WEM Digest received a first place award at the International Association of Emergency Managers annual meeting. We also received first place for our new web page that came on-line this year. Additionally, we garnered a second place award for our annual report. I am proud of our public information efforts and this recognition is a testament to the effectiveness of these efforts.

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Communities compete for mitigation grants

*By Roxanne Gray
WEM Hazard Mitigation Officer*

Wisconsin communities continue to apply for federal mitigation funds and implement projects to help prevent damage from future disasters.

In the past year, 15 projects were approved under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program in Wisconsin. Funding for the projects was allocated from previous disaster declarations.

One major change that will impact communities is the requirement to have an approved all-hazards mitigation plan in order to be eligible for future mitigation funding. To meet this requirement, there are currently 38

counties developing plans with planning grant funds awarded the last 2 years. In addition, state mitigation staff will be revising the State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

This summer, states, local governments and tribal organizations were eligible to apply for federal funds through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive Program (PDM-C) to develop all-hazard mitigation plans as well as for implementation of cost-effective mitigation projects.

Approximately \$130 million was available for the national competition with the priority for projects that addressed National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

repetitive loss properties. Communities applied for funds through the State as sub grants, with the State submitting the grant application to FEMA. There was only 90 days provided to solicit and complete applications including performing cost-benefit analyses and preliminary environmental review.

This was a very intense workload for state staff as well as the local governments that submitted the applications in such a short timeframe. WEM submitted its application that included six projects and five planning grants for a total of \$4,166,386.

The application included two acquisition projects, two projects for burying

overhead power lines for two electric cooperatives, and two structural flood mitigation projects.

This fall, the applications were ranked and evaluated by national panels. WEM's Hazard Mitigation Officer Roxanne Gray participated on one of the panels during the national evaluation.

The grants have not yet been announced, but WEM is very optimistic that several of the projects will be funded. It is expected that another \$150 million will be available in 2004 again through a national competition.



Mitigation: Getting out of harms way

On Labor Day 2002, several homes were damaged in the Falls Trailer Park in the Village of Osceola in Polk County when a millpond and its control structure on Osceola Creek failed during a 6" rainfall. Floodwaters destroyed nine mobile homes and one cottage. The Village of Osceola applied for and received more than \$555,000 in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds to acquire the mobile homes and cottage and relocate the residents. In addition, they purchased the underlying real estate, which was then deed restricted to prevent future development from occurring on the property, thereby permanently eliminating future disaster damages. The acquired land will be added to Mill Pond Park.

Terrorism Grants: *Spending money is hard work*

By Cullen Peltier
WEMA President

If someone would have told me a few years ago that my job would be to spend a large amount of money in a short period of time, I would have thought that it would have been a perfect job for me. However, as many county emergency management directors have discovered lately, this can be very stressful and time-consuming.

As local governments spend their terrorism grants, there are a number of strings attached to be aware of. First, we have to spend the money as fast as possible on items we often are not very familiar with. I've learned more about trailers, decon units and respirators than I ever thought I would.

Second, we have to spend the money in a way that will benefit the citizens of our counties and the State. This can be difficult when there are many different opinions on how the money should be spent. Often we end up acting like parents who have to measure to make sure the glasses of soda have exactly the same amount in them. If they

don't, they will have a long night ahead of them.

Finally, we have to keep a strict system of accounting in place, because when it comes time to review inventories, the auditors will be arriving at our doors.

However, if you were to ask me if I would take on the responsibility if I had a choice, I would emphatically say, yes. I would also, without any uncertainties, fight to keep this job in the hands of the county emergency management directors. There isn't a group of more dedicated and qualified professionals to handle this task. It is our job to coordinate resources. We work closely with all the members of our first responder community and can look objectively at what will benefit our counties.

I also encourage emergency management directors to continue to work closely with local hospitals and public health to ensure we are not duplicating efforts.

It has been a long and difficult year for emergency management.



I would like to commend each director for the excellent job they did in 2003. Because of your efforts, your communities and the State of Wisconsin are far better prepared to deal with an event involving weapons of mass destruction than they were a year ago.

WEMA wishes you a Happy New Year and continued success in 2004!!!!

In Memoriam



Wisconsin Emergency Management would like to extend its condolences to the family and friends of Vilas County Emergency Management Director Larry Miller who passed away unexpectedly on December 7, 2003

In Honor of our Fallen Heroes

As 2003 draws to a close, Wisconsin Emergency Management would like to pay tribute to those in emergency services that died in the line of duty.

*Deputy Michael Shannon—Adams County Sheriff's Department
Fire Chief Edward Weber—Elkhart Lake Fire Department
Deputy Richard Meyer—Winnebago County Sheriff's Department
Deputy Bruce Williams—Green Lake County Sheriff's Department
Carl Mack—New Chester Fire Department
Merlin Casey—Mount Horeb Emergency Medical Services
Jeffrey Tieg—Amherst Fire Department*

State programs tested

By Dale Seidel
WEM Administrative Officer

Wisconsin became the 15th state to undergo a comprehensive program assessment.

In November, Wisconsin's emergency management programs were evaluated against the National Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) standards.

Emergency management officials from Iowa, Florida, Indiana, Rhode Island, Minnesota and Ohio conducted the week long review. The results of the assessment will be used for development of long-range strategic objectives for the program.

Areas that were assessed included Hazard Mitigation, Resource Management, Operations and Procedures, Exercise and Training, to name a few.

Initial findings indicate Wisconsin's program could be strengthened through enhancements in several areas, including a comprehensive hazard analysis and improved plans for resource management, recovery, and donations management.

The assessors also indicated that the Incident Command System should be institutionalized across the state.



Exercise Help Available

To help provide counties with assistance in their development of terrorism exercises, Wisconsin Emergency Management has expanded its Exercise Program. Trainers will assist in the development of the exercise which includes providing facilitation and documentation. In addition, the staff is developing canned exercise scenarios that will be available for use. The Exercise Trainers are: (from the left) Bob Klinger, Cregg Reuter, Ed Shepperd, Dan Wenborne and Tom Grahek.

WEB Resources

Wisconsin Emergency Management Association (WEMA)

(An association of people and businesses that are interested in promoting effective emergency management planning, training, and exercise programs throughout the State of Wisconsin)

<http://www.wema.us/>

Wisconsin Chapter of the Emergency Number Association

(To foster the technological advancement, and implementation of a universal emergency telephone number system)

<http://winena.org/>

FAQ Regarding HIPAA

(The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. The first-ever federal privacy standards to protect patients' medical records and other health information provided to health plans, doctors, hospitals and other health care providers took effect on April 14, 2003)

<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/>



Putting Plans to the Test

Emergency responders, medical care providers, public health and volunteer agencies participated in a bioterrorism tabletop exercise at the Sunnyview Expo in Oshkosh on October 14, 2003. It was one of several bioterrorism exercises held around the state this fall.

Photo by Dan Dahlke

Emergency Management News Briefs



Best Wishes Dick!

Polk County Emergency Management Director Dick Fabbrini is leaving his position after serving 18 years in public service in Polk County. Wisconsin Emergency Management Northwest Regional Director Rhonda Reynolds presents a certificate of commendation on behalf of Governor Doyle for his years of service to public safety. *Photo by Rhonda Reynolds*



Way to Go!

Sgt. Mike Ciardo of the Whitewater Police Department was presented with an Emergency Management Level 3 Certification award from Wisconsin Emergency Management. The WEM Certification Program consists of four levels and is based on students achieving specific emergency management training requirements. Sgt. Ciardo is Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Whitewater and has been in law enforcement for over 21 years. From the left are Walworth County Emergency Management Director Lt. Kevin Williams, WEM Southeast Regional Director Pat O'Connor, Sgt. Mike Ciardo, Chief Jim Coan. *Photo by Walworth County Emergency Management*

Other Staff Notes

Welcome to **Patrick O'Connor**. Pat is the new **Wisconsin**



Emergency Management Southeast Regional Director. Pat served 20 years in the Army where he served in Operation Desert Storm and also was involved with the 1993 Mississippi River Flooding. Recently, he was a regional sales manager for a dairy equipment plant

Lisa is located at Volk Field and helps with the scheduling of WEM training at the new facility. Welcome!

Thanks to **Terry Norby and Harlan Hettrick** for transporting WEM's Model City equipment trailer around the state for various classes.

WEM's EPCRA Compliance Coordinator Jerry Hayes has moved to Colorado. Best wishes!



Lisa Olson-McDonald is the new Training Section Program Assistant.

Welcome to **Mark Fritsche as Dodge County Emergency Management Director**.



Show and Tell!

Ozaukee County Level B Hazardous Materials Team showed off their new equipment trailer at a series of community safety days this fall. The trailer was purchased with terrorism equipment grants and will serve as a county-wide central equipment cache.

Photo by Bill Stolte

Citizens learn to prepare through new initiative

By Pam Moen
American Red Cross

American Red Cross chapters in Wisconsin have been awarded a major federal grant to help state residents and communities prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

In November, the American Red Cross announced that an AmeriCorps grant of nearly \$370,000 has been awarded to enhance the statewide Red Cross infrastructure for building emergency preparedness and response capacity.

The grant will be used with Wisconsin Red Cross matching funds

and in-kind contributions to support the service of 19 AmeriCorps members in 11 local American Red Cross chapters throughout the state over the next 10 months.

In the initiative called "Prepare Wisconsin," these AmeriCorps members will provide disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery education and training for Wisconsin residents and communities with a particular focus on at-risk and special populations. The American Red Cross Badger Chapter headquartered in Madison is coordinating this statewide project,



Pictured at the "Prepare Wisconsin" kick-off news conference November 6 are (left to right): Wisconsin Homeland Security Advisor Major General Al Wilkening, Wisconsin Red Cross Coordinating Chapter Manager Phillip Hansen, Wisconsin National and Community Service Board Executive Director Tom Devine, and Wisconsin Emergency Management Administrator Ed Gleason. Photo by American Red Cross

and has two AmeriCorps members serving residents of the

chapter's six-county jurisdiction.



Giving Thanks

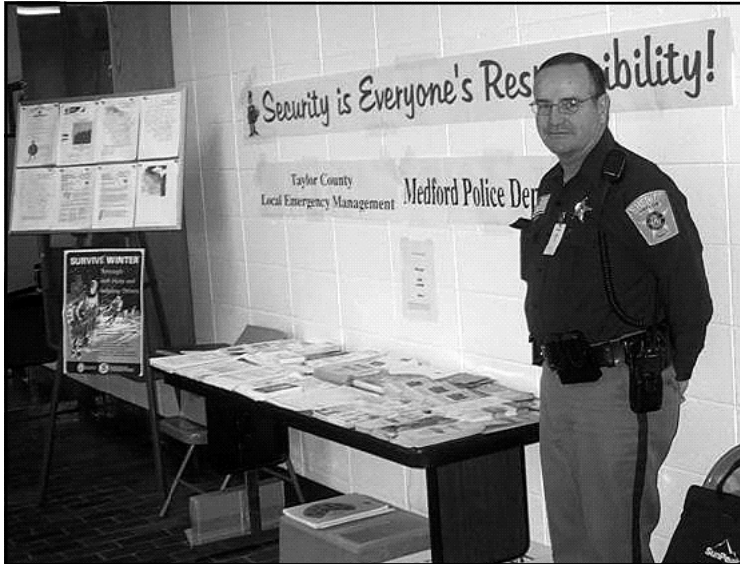
The National Weather Service (NWS) honored several individuals recently for their outstanding public service contributions to the NWS in helping save lives. On December 4 in Madison, Ken Rizzo and Rusty Kapela of the NWS presented certificates to Thomas Flemming and George E. Hrabovsky for their dedication. Other award recipients were Christian Reynolds, Thomas Kucharski, John Leekley, David Barquist, Skip Voros and Rick Swierczynski. Photo by Barb Fischer

Mark Your Calendars!

37th Annual Governor's Conference on Emergency Management

March 30-31, 2004
Radisson Paper Valley Hotel
Appleton WI

Registration materials will be available
in the January/February WEM Digest
and on the
WEM Website at
<http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov>



Promoting Safety

Taylor County Emergency Management Director Bill Breneman participated at the Kraft Pizza Safety and Security Fair. The event held on November 12 was for Kraft employees. Bill and Deputy Emergency Management Director Don Albers passed out winter weather safety information along with about 80 gun safety locks that were furnished by the Taylor County Sheriff's Department.

Photo by Taylor County Emergency Management

Happy Holidays!

Wisconsin Emergency Management would like to wish you a very happy and safe holiday season.



*WEM offices
will be closed
December 24-25
and
December 31-
January 1, 2004*

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